

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of all pending claims.

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, comprising:

a monitor configured to monitor at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a support node; and

a determining unit configured to determine if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitor,

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one parameter comprises user activity, and wherein said apparatus is configured to release said connection if there is user inactivity for a predetermined period of time.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said apparatus is further configured to release the connection between the apparatus and said mobile station dependent solely on the user activity monitored by said monitor.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said apparatus is further configured to send a message to the support node indicating that said connection has been released.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said apparatus is further configured to send a request for the connection to be released to said mobile station.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the support node is configured to send a connection release command to said apparatus in response to the release request received by said apparatus, and wherein said apparatus is further configured to control the release of said connection.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said apparatus is further configured to send a release request to said mobile station in response to the release command received from said support node.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said apparatus is further configured to send a message to said support node advising that the connection has been released.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, comprising:

a monitor configured to monitor at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a support node; and

a determining unit configured to determine if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitor,

wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection,

wherein said determining unit is further configured to determine that the connection is to be released if said monitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time, and

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined time depends on the type of traffic for which the connection is intended.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined time depends on the quality of service profile of the traffic for which the connection is intended.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, comprising:

a monitor configured to monitor at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a support node; and

a determining unit configured to determine if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring means,

wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station,

wherein said determining unit is further configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitor, and

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, comprising:

a monitor configured to monitor at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a support node; and

a determining unit configured to determine if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitor,

wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is further configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor, and

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein an amount of updating information received in a given time from the mobile station is used as a measure of the movement of the mobile station.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said updating information comprises universal mobile telecommunication systems terrestrial radio access network registration area updates.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, comprising:

a monitor configured to monitor at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a support node; and

a determining unit configured to determine if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitor,

wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is further configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitor, and

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said at least one parameter comprises associations of the mobile station with different apparatus, and said determining unit being further configured to determine that the connection should be released if said monitor indicates that the mobile station is associated with a different apparatus.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:
an apparatus as claimed in claim 1, a mobile station and a support node.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The cellular communications network as claimed in claim 19, wherein said support node is a serving general packet radio service support node.

22. (Previously Presented) The cellular communications network as claimed in claim 19, wherein said network operates in accordance with a universal mobile telecommunication systems standard.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said apparatus is further configured to send a message to the support node indicating that said connection has been released.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit is further configured to determine that the connection is to be released if said monitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and

said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and

said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitor.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitor.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is

configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitor.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitor.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitor.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitor.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is

configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitor.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining means is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitor.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining means is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitor.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining means is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitor.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining

unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining

unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor.

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor.

47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor.

49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining

unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor.

50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor.

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitor.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitor.

53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit

is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitor.

54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitor.

55. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitor.

56. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitor.

57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit

is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitor.

58. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitor.

59. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitor.

60. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitor.

61-76. (Cancelled)

77. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:

an apparatus as claimed in claim 2, a mobile station and a support node.

78. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:
an apparatus as claimed in claim 3, a mobile station and a support node.

79. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:
an apparatus as claimed in claim 4, a mobile station and a support node.

80. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:
an apparatus as claimed in claim 5, a mobile station and a support node.

81. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:
an apparatus as claimed in claim 6, a mobile station and a support node.

82. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:
an apparatus as claimed in claim 7, a mobile station and a support node.

83. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:
an apparatus as claimed in claim 8, a mobile station and a support node.

84. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:

an apparatus as claimed in claim 9, a mobile station and a support node.

85. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:
an apparatus as claimed in claim 10, a mobile station and a support node.

86. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:
an apparatus as claimed in claim 11, a mobile station and a support node.

87. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:
an apparatus as claimed in claim 12, a mobile station and a support node.

88. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:
an apparatus as claimed in claim 13, a mobile station and a support node.

89. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:
an apparatus as claimed in claim 14, a mobile station and a support node.

90. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:
an apparatus as claimed in claim 15, a mobile station and a support node.

91. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:

an apparatus as claimed in claim 16, a mobile station and a support node.

92. (Previously Presented) A cellular communications network, comprising:
an apparatus as claimed in claim 17, a mobile station and a support node.

93-95. (Cancelled)

96. (Previously Presented) The cellular communications network as claimed in claim 21, wherein said cellular communications network operates in accordance with a universal mobile telecommunication systems standard.

97. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one parameter comprises at least one of a state of the mobile station, movement of the mobile station, or an amount of communications between the mobile station and a radio network controller.

98. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
a processor configured to monitor at least one parameter of a connection established between a mobile station and a support node and to determine if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter,

wherein the apparatus is implemented in a cellular communication network, and
wherein said apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node.

99. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
establishing a connection between a mobile station and a support node in a cellular communications network through a radio network controller;
monitoring, at the radio network controller, at least one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the support node; and
determining, at the radio network controller, if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter.

100. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 98, wherein said support node is a serving general packet radio service support node.

101. (Cancelled)

102. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said apparatus is further configured to release the connection between the apparatus and said mobile station dependent solely on only one parameter monitored by said monitor.

103. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 99, wherein said at least one parameter comprises user activity, and determining releasing said connection if there is user inactivity for a predetermined period of time.

104. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 103, further comprising:

releasing the connection dependent solely on the user activity monitored by a monitor.

105. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 99, wherein only one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the support node is monitored and determining releasing the connection between a network element and said mobile station dependent solely on the only one parameter monitored.

106. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a support node; and

determining means for determining if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter

monitored by said means for monitoring, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring means indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time,

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node.

107. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and an support node; and

determining means for determining if the connection between said support node sand said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring means, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining means is configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring means,

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node.

108. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and an support node; and

determining means for determining if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring means, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining means is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring means,

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node.

109. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in a cellular communications network, comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and an support node; and

determining means for determining if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring means, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining means is configured to determine if

the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring means,

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node.

110. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium encoded with instructions that, if executed by a computer, perform:

establishing a connection between a mobile station and an support node in a communication network through a radio network controller;

monitoring, at the radio network controller, at least one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the support node; and

determining, at the radio network controller, if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter.

111. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium as claimed in claim 110, wherein said at least one parameter comprises user activity, and determining releasing said connection if there is user inactivity for a predetermined period of time.

112. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium as claimed in claim 110, wherein the instructions, if executed by the computer, further perform:

releasing the connection dependent solely on the user activity monitored by a monitor.

113. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium as claimed in claim 110, wherein only one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the support node is monitored and determining releasing the connection between a network element and said mobile station dependent solely on the only one parameter monitored.